



Kawasaki Syndrome

(Mucocutaneous Lymph Node Syndrome)

What is Kawasaki syndrome?

Kawasaki syndrome is a serious illness of children that causes fever and affects the entire body. It is a relatively rare disease.

Who is at risk for Kawasaki syndrome?

Most cases occur in children between the ages of 1 and 8. It is rarely seen after age 8.

What are the symptoms of Kawasaki syndrome?

All cases have a fever that does not respond to antibiotics. The fever lasts more than five days and is associated with a rash, swollen lymph nodes and red eyes, lips, throat and tongue. The rash is usually confined to the patient's trunk and is sometimes followed by a peeling of the skin on the hands and fingers.

How soon do symptoms appear?

It is unknown how long it takes for symptoms to appear, since the cause of the disease and how it is spread is unknown.

How is Kawasaki syndrome spread?

Little is known about the way a person gets this syndrome or how it spreads. It does not appear to be transmitted from person to person. Since outbreaks occur, it may be caused by an infectious agent.

When and for how long is a person able to spread the disease?

This is also unknown.

How is a person diagnosed?

There is not a test for Kawasaki syndrome. A physician diagnoses the disease based on symptoms.

What is the treatment?

Most patients are treated in the hospital where they can be closely watched. Aspirin and immunoglobulins are often prescribed.

Does past infection make a person immune?

Recurrences have been reported but they are extremely rare.

Should children or others be excluded from day care, school, work or other activities if they have Kawasaki syndrome?

No. Children should not be excluded from activities.

What can be done to prevent the spread of Kawasaki syndrome?

At the present time, preventive measures are unknown.

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

Resource: American Academy of Pediatrics. Kawasaki Syndrome. In: Pickering LK, ed. *Red Book: 2003 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 26th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003: 392-395.

